

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Patent Application No. 10/721,868

Applicant: KATO et al.

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Examiner: Eric Pico

Docket No.: 402886

Customer No.: 23548

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated November 28, 2006, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.